SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is there any proposal for afforestation of lands in the Rayalaseema? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"At present there is no specific scheme for Rayalaseema. The Working Plan Officer is working in Rayalaseema and on the receipt of the plan the question will be taken up."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not a fact that more forests are being cut than or being grown? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is regrettable fact that considerable forests are being cut. Ten lakhs of tons of firewood are being cut to produce 2 lakhs of tons of charcoal for buses and lorries."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if afforestation and regeneration schemes are pursued side by side? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" These schemes are being continued."

Town-Planning Scheme of the Courtallam Panchayat Board.

* 151 *Q.*—SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR (on behalf of Sri K. Manathunainatha Desigar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken on the Town-Planning Scheme prepared by the Courtallam Panchayat Board in consultation with the Director of Town-Planning; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken on the recommendations of the Special Committee presided over by the late Minister Mr. Daniel Thomas regarding proposals for the improvement of Courtallam as a health resort?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The Town-Planning Scheme has been received from the Director of Town-Planning for sanction by the Government under section 14 of the Town-Planning Act. The matter is under consideration and it is hoped that the scheme will be sanctioned shortly.

" (*b*) The recommendations are under the consideration of the Government."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing Collector or other local officers so that the Committee may meet more often? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Mr. Daniel Thomas was the Chairman of the Committee. The resolution was passed in February. The matter is under correspondence."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" If the Minister were to be President, the Committee rarely meets. If the local authorities were to be the President, it may meet as often as necessary. Will the Government consider that suggestion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It will be considered."